

Application No.: 10/824, 165
Amendment Dated February 17, 2009
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2008
Attorney Docket No.: ERN-TSH-001

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Amendments to the Specification

Applicants respectfully request a correction to the following errors in the patent application:

Please replace Paragraph [1017] with the following paragraph:

[1017] Truss 100 is a conventional roof truss formed, e.g., from light gauge (22 to 12 ga) steel stud members, but it is formed using techniques of the present invention and takes advantage of features available on conventional roll-forming machines. Namely, the machine is used not only to form and cut each truss member into its proper dimensions, but also, it applies an alignment guide at each part of a member that is connected to another member. An alignment guide, as used herein, can be anything such as a mark, feature, detent, recess, protrusion, hole, or the like that is used for aligning two or more members together at a particular desired location where they are to be connected to each other. The use of alignment guides makes it easier and more efficient to assemble stud members into a truss because it eliminates the need to use a [[jib]] jig for aligning and possibly securing the members as they are being fastened to each other. Instead, with the assistance of one or more persons, the alignment guides serve to accurately position the members relative to each other and with some alignment guides, secure them in place as they are being connected together, e.g., by a person with a self-driving screw gun. In one embodiment, the alignment guides are placed on the members at their connection nodes by a roll-forming machine used to form the members.

Please replace Paragraph [1019] with the following paragraph:

[1019] Figure 1B shows an end view of a "C" (or CEE) channel stud used for

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implementing the stud members in truss [[100]] 180. A "C" stud is a structural stud typically formed from bending a metal strip with a roll forming machine to give it its web, flange, and lip portions, as shown in the drawing. The lip portions give the studs their added structural support quality in contrast with tracks, which have negligible or no lips. Light gauge steel roll is typically used but other suitable materials could also be used for making the "C" studs used in these trusses. A conventional roll-forming machine, such as a Knudson KS-246A FRAMEMAKER™ roll forming machine, can be used for making "C" studs out of light gauge steel roll. A single roll forming machine can typically make all of the members needed for one or more trusses of a given design. They have components for cutting the members into different lengths and tools for bending the steel into studs having different desired channel dimensions. In fact, depending on the particular truss design, most trusses will have web and chord members with different lengths and channel dimensions. In one embodiment, the truss members are formed as C-channel studs having various lengths and fixed lip and flange dimensions of 0.5" and 1.625", respectively but with web widths that can range from 2.5" to 12" in width. However, persons of ordinary skill will recognize that the specific dimensions for each member will depend on the particular truss design, as well possibly on the truss design software used for designing the truss and available materials for building the truss.

Please replace Paragraph [1020] with the following paragraph:

[1020] With reference to Figure 1C, in one embodiment, holes are used as alignment guides. Figure 1C shows an enlarged view of area "A" in truss 100 in Figure 1A. With this type of alignment guide, a hole is created (e.g., punched out) at each node so that a peg (or dowel) can be inserted into overlapping holes of connecting members to temporarily hold and align them to one

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another as they are connected together with fasteners such as screws. Depicted in Figure 1C are

the fastener connections 122 and alignment guide holes 124, corresponding to nodes N7 and N8, for aligning and securing web members 109 and 111 to chord member 106 ~~wile~~ while connecting the members to each other with screws 122. In this embodiment, the pegs are used to temporarily hold connecting members in place while they are connected. Screws 122 actually fix them together for operation in the truss. Any suitable fasteners can be used for connecting them together. Fasteners can include but are not limited to rivets, screws, bolts, weld joints, spots or clinches and the like. In the depicted embodiment, self-driving, #10 screws for light-gauge steel are used. In the connections at nodes N7 and N8, four screws 122 are used. The total number for each connection, however, may vary depending upon the truss design. As addressed below, in one aspect of the present invention, the number of screws is indicated near the alignment hole to make it more convenient for the assembler.